Rules and Regulations for Agriculture and FPI

1769. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report, the Agriculture and Food Processing Industry had enormous potential, but its growth is constrained by a plethora of rules and regulations;

(b) whether there is an urgent need to review these laws and introduce reforms to enable the industry to feel secure and grow to the full extent of its potential; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Various reports have projected enormous potential of food processing industry. One of the many constraints faced by the industry is multiplicity of laws.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a modern and integrated food law and related regulations.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

1770. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recorded a high growth of agriculture in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, to what extent it was more in comparison to that in 2000-2001;

(c) whether it is likely to improve further in 2002-2003;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) what are the total foodgrains stocked at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1993-94 prices in agriculture and allied sector registered a growth of 5.7% in 2001-02 compared to the growth of (-) 0.2% in 2000-01.